



Togo Slippery Frog, © PPI/Les Films au Clair de Lune

Quadruple Protection for the Togo Slippery Frog Reserve in Ghana

An unrecognized whistle heard one night in the rainforests of Ghana led scientists to the Critically Endangered Togo Slippery Frog, believed extinct for nearly 40 years. This small brown frog is endemic to the Togo-Volta highlands that span eastern Ghana and western Togo—a highly deforested region of West Africa where the few remaining forests shelter rare amphibians and other species. The frog lives only within a small range in these mountains and relies almost completely on fast-flowing, rocky streams and waterfalls. It is in desperate need of protection from habitat loss and hunting.

Thanks to our donors, Rainforest Trust's ongoing support of Herp Conservation Ghana since 2018 led to the creation of the 2,132-acre Onepone Endangered Species Refuge—the first forest area protected specifically for frogs in West Africa. Recently, our partner discovered an even larger population of the Togo Slippery Frog in the forests outside the refuge, totaling 350 individuals of mostly juveniles and subadults, strongly indicating that the site serves as a crucial breeding habitat.

We now have the exciting opportunity to secure an additional 7,500 acres and seek \$361,749 to protect them through designation as a community-based municipal reserve. This will expand the refuge to 9,632 acres to safeguard the majority of the Togo Slippery Frog's global range.

PROTECT CRITICAL HIGHLAND HABITAT FROM DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION

This area of Ghana is renowned for its spring-like weather, waterfalls, and scenic mountains, resulting in land-grabbing for high-end tourism in the frog's remaining habitat. Rapid forest loss on mountain tops and along stream banks from illegal logging and slash-and-burn agriculture along with pollution from agricultural residues, stream sedimentation and widespread agrochemical use also threaten the frog's survival.

Without urgent conservation measures, the newly identified breeding population could be wiped out, spelling the end of hope for the frog's survival. Alternatively, if the substantial number of juveniles recently identified reaches full maturity as adults, the known global population of the Togo Slippery Frog would more than double.

Preserving headwater streams for the Togo Slippery Frog ensures water for several downstream communities while providing a secure sanctuary for more than 12 threatened species, including the Critically Endangered Hooded Vulture and Great Tiger-nut Tree, and Vulnerable White-bellied Pangolin. Biodiversity surveys carried out in and around the proposed expansion area documented a total of 494 species, including 20 amphibians, 76 butterflies, 152 birds, 24 mammals and 222 plants.



7,500
ACRES

\$361,749
PROJECT COST

\$48.23
COST PER ACRE

497,986 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

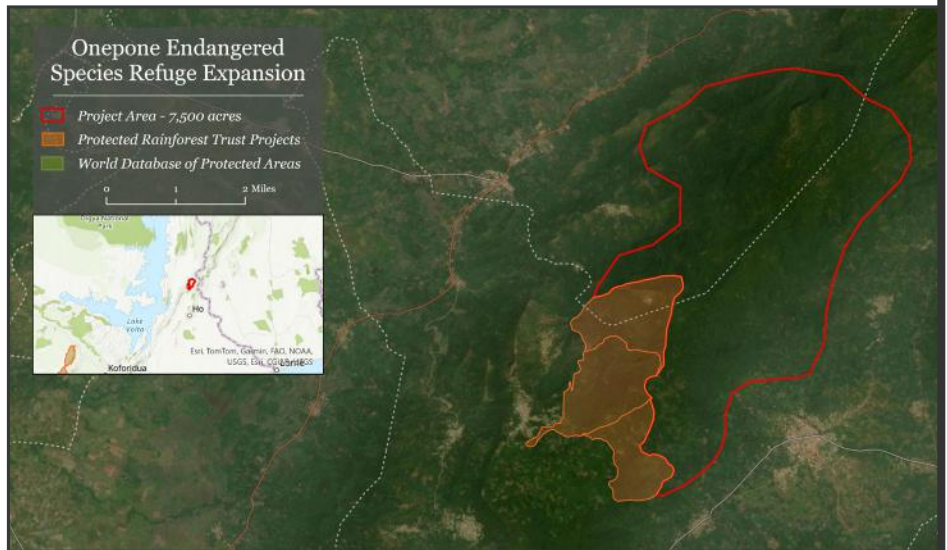
Togo Slippery Frog (CR),
Hooded Vulture (CR),
White-Bellied Pangolin (EN),
Great Tiger-nut Tree (CR),
Talbotiella gentii (CR)



SUSTAIN COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION

Our partner's long-term success since 2012 is attributed to the strong support of local stakeholders for their community-based conservation methods. This has enabled the Togo Slippery Frog to avert possible extinction. The new 7,500 acres, combined with the original refuge, will protect most of the known global population of this species, giving it a fighting chance.

Local communities will continue to benefit from diversified livelihood opportunities, including ecotourism and organic apple farming. A canopy walkway for visitors built in the original refuge significantly transformed the local economy by generating revenue and creating jobs in ecotourism.



The Onepone landscape, by Antoine Marchal

